FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

27 JANUARY 1986

PDRY

A YSP Central committee statement broadcast by Aden radio 24 January named 50 YSP leaders and cadres killed in the "massacres" perpetrated by 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's men 13 January. The list included 'Ali Nasir Ahmad 'Antar, deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; Salih Muslih Qasim, minister of defense; and 'Ali Sha'i' Hadi, chairman of the YSP Central Committee. The statement also announced 'Ali Nasir Muhammad's dismissal from all party and state posts, noting that the Central Committee has chosen Haydar Bakr al-'Attas to "temporarily assume the chairmanship of the state." Al-'Attas' election as deputy chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium was subsequently reported by the radio, which noted that he will currently assume all the responsibilities of chairman. Al-'Attas arrived at Aden Airport 25 January, where he was met by YSP officials Salim Salih Muhammad and Salih Munassar al-Siyayli, according to the radio. Yemeni sources cited by the UAE newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* described Salim Salih Muhammad as the "strong man" in Aden who will be the most powerful new leader if 'Abd al-Fattah Isma'il does not recover from serious injuries.

As for 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, QNA said his forces control four governorates in the east of the country and Radio Monte Carlo reported that he has threatened to recapture the capital if his opponents do not surrender by 29 January. An Aden radio commentary acknowledged that 'Ali Nasir is reorganizing the "remnants" of his forces. Meanwhile, Tripoli television reported that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stressed his support for 'Ali Nasir in a 25 January "contact" with the PDRY president. On the YAR's view of the situation, the UAE paper AL-ITTIHAD said the YAR has told other states that the YSP Central Committee decision to dismiss 'Ali Nasir Muhammad is "illegal" and will only lead to further bloodshed, Abu Dhabi radio reported. *AL-KHALIJ* cited reports of YAR troop movements in the direction of the PDRY border 25 January, warning journalists, however, to stay away.

Libya

"War will occur" if U.S. planes or warships violate Libyan "territorial waters," Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi warned in a 25 January news conference broadcast by Tripoli television. Shown addressing newsmen on board a naval gunboat in Misratah harbor, Col Al-Qadhdhafi said 32.5 degrees North latitude is the "line of death" where Libyan forces would fight "with our backs to the wall," adding that a U.S.-Libyan clash was expected "at any moment during these maneuvers." Al-Qadhdhafi said he would sail the gunboat from Misratah along the 32.5 degree line to Banghazi "to prove to the Americans that we are here." Meanwhile, a Tripoli radio commentary called the U.S. military exercises off the Libyan coast a return to "gunboat diplomacy."

In an interview with the Athens paper *TO ETHNOS TIS KIRIAKIS*, Col Al-Qadhdhafi said that if the United States were to attack Libya, "we would attack the U.S. bases in Europe, particularly those in the Mediterranean region," and that "all" U.S. targets, both civilian and military, would be subject to attack.

Meanwhile, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said in a Paris radio interview that if the EC decides to carry out an economic boycott of Libya, the Arab League "will automatically be led to taking retaliatory measures." He added that the Arab states would also "show their solidarity" in the event of an armed attack against Libya. In Rabat, Morocco's King Hassan warned in a letter to President Reagan carried by MAP that U.S.-Libyan relations could "dangerously lead to a point of no return" and he asked that "peaceful means" and "dialogue" be used to settle the two countries' differences.

Jordan-PLO; Jordan-Israel

Jordan's King Husayn met with PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Amman 25 January, according to the *JORDAN TIMES*. *'Arafat was expected to inform the king of* the PLO's "final position" on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the paper added citing "informed sources." Husayn and 'Arafat also met 26 January, according to Amman radio. Meanwhile, a Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentary reiterated that the PLO will not retreat from its "total rejection" of the "ill-omened" Resolution 242. In London, Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem television that he doubts that the goal of Israeli-Jordanian talks by the end of February can be met, in spite of a U.S. "supreme effort" in this regard. Peres had earlier announced that King Husayn has told Israel that Jordan will conduct talks with Israel "within a short period of time," Jerusalem radio reported.

Egypt-Israel

President Husni Mubarak met with Israeli Minister of State 'Ezer Weizman 26 January, MENA reported. Weizman's goal was to create the framework for a summit meeting between Mubarak and Shim'on Peres, according to Jerusalem radio.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil has called for an extraordinary cabinet session 27 January to approve referring the tripartite agreement to the Chamber of Deputies, the president's office announced in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio. Al-Jumayyil's decision to ask the Chamber to discuss the agreement is in accordance with an understanding reached with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, the statement maintained. However, the radio subsequently broadcast Prime Minister Rashid Karami's statement that he has "declined to attend" the cabinet

session and that referring the tripartite agreement to the Chamber is impossible.

In another development, Samir Ja'ja' was elected Chairman of the Lebanese Forces Executive Committee 24 January, according to a Lebanese Forces statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio. The new Lebanese Forces leadership is eager to abide by the spirit of the tripartite agreement, the statement added, but it reserves the right to propose certain amendments to it. The statement invited the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party to revive the tripartite committee meetings in Damascus. As for Elie Hubayqah, the former Lebanese Forces leader, Beirut radio reported his arrival in Zahlah 26 January for talks with local leaders on the establishment of a broad national front that will seek to implement the tripartite agreement.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian aircraft bombed an Iraqi military garrison southeast of Al-'Amadiyah 24 January and other garrisons west of and in Rawanduz 26 and 27 January, according to Iranian Joint Staff communiques cited by IRNA. An Iraqi military spokesman said the Al-'Amadiyah and Rawanduz raids were on civilian areas, INA reported. Meanwhile, Iraqi planes hit two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast and attacked five Iranian military camps over the weekend, according to Iraqi military communiques broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

OPEC

Iran is cutting its oil production by half "until further notice" and calls on other oil-producing states to join it in "thwarting" the "well calculated and continuous plot by Western countries" to weaken the oil-exporting nations, Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said following a Cabinet session 26 January, IRNA reported. Meanwhile, the OPEC ministerial committee charged with enforcing OPEC'S oil production quotas is to meet in Vienna 3 February, INA reported citing the Iraqi oil minister.

Morocco-SDAR

Seventy Moroccan soldiers were killed in two operations by Polisario forces 23 January, according to a Saharan Information Ministry communique reported by APS.

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Karmal Message Assures Libya of Support

LD232130 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Reply message "recently sent" from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the Libyan revolution — read by announcer]

[Text] His Excellency Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the revolution and the great victor of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiryah [SPLAJ]; January 1986; Kabul:

Respected Brother Col Mu'ammer al-Qadhdhafi. I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of myself, the leadership of the party and government of the DRA, best wishes and fraternal greetings to you, dear friend, and through you to the fraternal Muslim nation of the SPLAJ, and wish you further victories in the defense of peace and progress, and in repulling the provocations of imperialism, reaction, and Zionism.

Your congratulatory telegram on the occasion of 21st founding anniversary of the PDPA has recently arrived in Kabul.

In expressing gratitude for your warm feelings regarding the righteous and just struggle of our people under the leadership of the PDPA, I assure you that our party and government have always been and will continue to support resolutely the righteous and just struggle of the fighting and peace-loving people of the SPLAJ against the conspiracies and the reactionary intrigues of imperialist, reactionary, and Zionist circles.

During its history the PDPA has been resolutely and earnestly defending the just claim of the Arab people, in particular the Palestinian people, against Zionism, reaction, and imperialism.

With the imperialist circles of the Washington administration once again shamefully provoking the independent and progress-loving country of the SPLAJ, I assure you, dear friend, and the toiling people of Libya, to count on support and fraternal solidarity of the free-born, proud, and Muslim people of Afghanistan, the party, and the DRA Government. With warm fraternal greetings,

[Signed] Babrak Karmal, General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and President of the DRA Revolutionary Council

Karmal Willing To Talk to Pakistan's Ziaul Haq

OW270149 Tokyo KYODO in English 0139 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 26 KYODO — Afghan President Babrak Karmal said Sunday he is ready to talk with his Pakistani counterpart Mohammad Ziaul Haq on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from his country.

Afghanistan has already drafted plans on a pullout by Soviet forces, Karmal said at a news conference, and is ready to go into negotiations with Pakistan immediately. The two countries have repeatedly exchanged border fire since the Soviet Union sent troops to Afghanistan in late 1979. an estimated three million Afghan refugees have since crossed the border into Pakistan. Afghan guerrillas have set up bases in Pakistan to fight Soviet and pro-Soviet government forces.

Karmal told reporters Afghanistan and Pakistan have reached general agreement on ending foreign interference in Afghanistan and on voluntary return of the refugees. The two countries have held negotiations through the United Nations to settle the dispute. Afghanistan and Pakistan should now sit down face to face and discuss how Soviet forces can be pulled out, Karmal added.

More than 20 reporters, mostly Western correspondents stationed in Moscow, took part in the news conference, through which diplomatic sources here said Karmal hoped to convince reporters of the stability of his five-year-old administration. The United States, Japan and many other U.S. allies do not recognize the Karmal government.

Karmal Chairs Revolutionary Council Presidium Session

LD232317 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jan 86

[Text] The session of the Revolutionary Council Presidium chaired by Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, was held today in Gol Khanah Palace, the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council.

At the beginning of the session Babrak Karmal spoke in detail about the burden of responsibility and the heavy volume of work placed on each member of the government organs as a result of the recent decisions of the party and government concerning the broadening of the social pillars of the people's sovereignty and normalization of the situation in the country.

He also said: The recent measures and in particular, the widening of the composition of the DRA Revolutionary Council and participation by a number of credible delegates of the people, including a majority of non-party members, were warmly welcomed by the people of our country.

The important duty is that the contents of the 10 theses, the statement of the DRA Revolutionary Council, the decisions and resolutions of the 16th PDPA Central Committee Plenum, particularly the important decision to widen the composition of the DRA Revolutionary Council, must be conveyed to every compatriots in the most remote corner of the country and to our deceived compatriots outside the country.

Because the members of the Revolutionary Council enjoy credibility and necessary prestige among the people, their words carry massive influence. Hence they should personally carry the facts to the people. The Presidium must control and enhance the work of the central and local organs.

The Revolutionary Council Presidium has endorsed a particular resolution in this respect, whereby the members of the high government organs, those in charge of the ministries, central

department, local and government organs, are being entrusted with the duty to perform even broader and more active work in the localities and among the people.

The session then discussed the procedure and nature of work of the Revolutionary Council Presidium and the duties of its members. Specific decisions were made in this regard. Other issues within the jurisdiction of the Revolutionary Council Presidium were also discussed and decisions made.

4 Bandits, 'Chinese Trainer' Killed in Peshawar

LD270740 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 27 Jan 86

[text] Kabul, January 26, BAKHTAR — Four counterrevolutionary bandits including a Chinese trainer of the criminal gangs were killed and 13 wounded seriously as a result of the bombs blasted by the unknown persons in Shabqadar of Peshawar, reports reaching BAKHTAR say. The chief of information service of the so-called Mahaz-e Mili band was shot by an unknown person in Gulkaj [word indistinct] of Peshawar, the reports add.

Kabul Notes U.S. General's Visit to Pakistan

GF261345 Kabul in English to South Asia 0900 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] According to reports reaching from Islamabad, General George Crist, chief officer of the central command of the United States CENTCOM, is on a visit to Pakistan. He has had talks with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, foreign minister, and other officials of Pakistan. It is believed in New Delhi that matters related to the intensification of the undeclared war against the DRA and the strengthening of the military axis of Washington-Islamabad, particularly the possibility of the use of Pakistan's territory for the U.S. military were at the center of these talks.

Local observers know that Washington is resolved to give the Afghan counterrevolution its $100 million only through official channels in the course of the current year. The aid of the United States to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries is precisely taking place with Pakistan where over 100 military training camps exist and the Afghan counterrevolutionary groupings are trained under the supervision of instructors from the United States, Pakistan, and other countries.

Regarding the present visit of this American general, the Indian press notes that the creation of bases in Gwadar in Pakistan for operations in Gulf regions by the RDF of the United States had been discussed. The reports indicates apart from this the Ziaul Haq regime has agreed that the Air Force of the United States can use the airbases of Pakistan in case of a so-called emergency.

The unprecedented strengthening of the military forces of Pakistan is a source of concern for the countries of South and Southwest Asia. By now Islamabad has received tens of modern F-16 bombers, helicopters, tanks, artillery, anti-aircraft guns of [word indistinct] and warships. According to reports from UNI news agency of India, the U.S. Administration endorsed recently the delivery of more up to date arms to Pakistan regime. This system includes a radar which could considerably increase the offensive capability of warplanes and artillery of Pakistan. The military forces of Pakistan have obtained the permission to purchase unconditionally the sea-based Harpoon-type cruise missiles from the United States.

Special Court Sentences 3 Rebels for 'Armed Attacks'

LD261857 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The judicial delegation of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court yesterday in an open court sentenced to death and to several years in prison, three criminals belonging to the Jamyat-e Islami band.

A BIA correspondent reports that any criminals who commit murder, terror, and aggression -- the shameful policies of the circles of the reactionary and imperialistic powers -- in exchange for money, will sooner or later be captured by the alert security forces and will be punished for their shameful, anti-human activities.

Three of these sold-out elements who, armed with various weapons, carried out dozens of savage anti-human crimes, were captured and handed over to the law. They are: Muhammad Akbar, son of Khoda-e Nazar; Abdul Basir, son of Sultan Muhammad; and Qadratollah, son of Habib. They were responsible not only for the armed attacks in the Dar-ol Amand Palace, Charkhab Post, Bagh Koti, Chariab, and on a number of the toiling families in the Shah Shahid, Kart-e Now, and in the area around the district of Paghman, but also for delivering arms from Pakistan to Afghanistan; receiving military training by Pakistani and U.S. instructors in Peshawar; destroying schools, mosques, and other public establishments; and killing children and other innocent people.

AFP: President Urges Unity, Political Tolerance

NC251228 Paris AFP in English 1208 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpts] New Delhi, Jan 25 (AFP) — President Zail Singh called on Indians today to preserve the country's unity and asked for political tolerance among parties with divergent views. Mr Zail Singh, in remarks prepared for a broadcast to the nation on the eve of India's 36th Republic Day, said certain basic values in public life sustained and promoted national unity — "not only the political unity, but the unity of the spirit, sentiment and emotion, the roots of which lie deep in our national consciousness."

Said the president: "It is, however, unfortunate that some decline in observance of these values has been evident, which gives rise to many undesirable consequences. For this decline in values, we can only blame ourselves."

The president did not mention any specific threats to national unity. But observers interpreted his words as a reference chiefly to the situation in the troubled northern state of Punjab, Mr Zail Singh's own home state.

Mr. Zail Singh asked India's various political parties to compete in healthy programmes with the ultimate goal of promoting the greater welfare of the masses, and reminded them that "political differences should not assume the overtones of hostility and enmity." The ruling party and the opposition, whether at the federal or state level, together represent the collective will of voters, he said.

Two Ministers Resign; Portfolios Reallocated

BK271258 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Here is a message just received: The minister of state for rural development, Mr Chandulal Chandrakar, and the minister of state for food and civil supplies, Mr K.P. Singh Deo, have resigned. According to a communique issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house], their resignations have been accepted.

The commerce minister, Mr P. Shiv Shanker, will handle charge of the food and supplies in addition to his present portfolio.

Reportage on Visit of Greek Prime Minister

Arrives in Bombay

BK250327 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The prime minister of Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreou, arrived in Bombay last night on an official visit to India. He is accompanied by his wife and the foreign minister, Mr Karolos Papoulias. The Maharashtra minister for protocol, Mr Javed Khan, received them at the airport.

The Greek prime minister and his wife will leave for New Delhi this morning. They will be the chief guests at the Republic Day celebrations tomorrow.

Arrives New Delhi

BK250958 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister of Greece, Mr Andreas Papandreou, was given a ceremonial welcome when he arrived in New Delhi this afternoon from Bombay on a 4-day state visit. He was received at the airport by the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, several of his cabinet colleagues, members of the diplomatic corps and other dignitaries.

The Greek prime minister will be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations. He is accompanied by his wife, Mrs (Margarita) Papandreou, and the minister for foreign affairs, Mr Karolos Papoulias. During his stay in the capital, he will call on the president, the vice president and the prime minister. Mr Gandhi is hosting a dinner in honor of the visiting dignitary tonight. Mr Papandreou is scheduled to leave for Athens on Tuesday [28 January].

Meets President, Vice President

BK251634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister of Greece, Dr Andreas Papandreou, who arrived in New Delhi today, called on the president, Giani Zail Singh, and the vice president, Mr Venkataraman. The vice president presented to the visiting dignitary a set of books, including *Discovery of India* written by Jawaharlal Nehru. Dr Papandreou, who is accompanied by his wife, will be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations.

Mathew Commission Submits Report to Cabinet

Fails in Objective

BK251624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] The Mathew Commission, which was appointed to identify the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab which could be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh, submitted its report to the government today, the last day of its term. The report was considered by the union cabinet committee on political affairs and later by the full cabinet.

The commission had identified 83 villages and 2 towns in Fazilka and Abohar areas as Hindi-speaking. But it could not recommend their transfer to Haryana as they did not fulfill the criterion of contiguity. This was one of the three criteria which it had been asked to keep in view while recommending transfer of areas. The other two were linguistic affinity and a village being taken as a unit.

In its report, the commission said it was mandatory to apply these criteria laid down in its terms of reference. The irresistible conclusion is that the commission cannot determine any specific Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab which should go to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh, the report said. It added that it is for the government of India to take such suitable steps as it deems fit

and transfer some Hindi-speaking territories in Punjab to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh.

It was authoritatively stated in New Delhi that the government stands committed to the implementation of the agreement between the late Sant Longowal and the prime minister. Recalling that the agreement laid down that Chandigarh would go to Punjab, these sources said that the government stands by this commitment. However, since there is no specific recommendation by the Mathew Commission on the areas which should be transferred to Haryana, the government is devising steps by which this can be done at the earliest. The AIR [All India Radio] correspondent reports that efforts are already on to persuade the governments of Punjab and Haryana to come to an amicable understanding.

Earlier this evening, the home minister, Mr Chavan, had a meeting with the chief ministers of the two states — Mr Barnala and Mr Bhajan Lal — jointly. Mr Barnala was accompanied by the state finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh. The meeting lasted 45 minutes. They are meeting again tomorrow.

According to agency reports, the Punjab chief minister has welcomed the Mathew Commission's report. He said the report has vindicated his government's stand. The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has ruled out the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab till Hindi-speaking areas of the state are transferred to Haryana as laid down in the Punjab accord. But he hoped that a suitable solution will be found in this regard.

Problem of Chandigarh

BK261634 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Excerpt] The chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana, Mr Barnala and Mr Bhajan Lal, held a joint meeting with the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, in New Delhi this evening. It was officially stated that they explored the possibilities of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the question of identifying Hindi-speaking areas in Punjab to be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh. The meeting lasted over an hour and was held in a cordial atmosphere. It was decided that Mr Bhajan Lal and Mr Barnala will meet the home minister again after a couple of days.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, has expressed full confidence in the center that it will do justice to the interests of the state. Speaking to newsmen in Chandigarh today, he said the Mathew Commission has vindicated the Haryana stand that there are Hindi-speaking areas in Abohar and Fazibka in Punjab to which the state has always laid its claim. He reiterated that the transfer of Chandigarh to Punjab in lieu of the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab to Haryana should be simultaneous.

Mr Bhajan Lal also welcomed the setting up of the tribunal for distribution of the Ravi-Beas waters between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. He urged the center to take up the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal in Punjab so that it could be completed by 15 August this year as provided under the Punjab Accord.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala, has said that the situation arising out of the Mathew Commission report has not in any way endangered the Punjab Accord. Talking to newsmen in Chandigarh this afternoon, he welcomed the assertion of the center that it is committed to the implementation of the Punjab Accord.

Militants Control Temple As Sikh Convention Opens

HK260840 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 26 Jan

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 26 (AFP) — Thousands of Sikh separatists were in virtual control of the Sikh Golden Temple here today as a crucial religious convention opened amid fears of possible violence, eyewitnesses and Sikh sources said.

The Sikh "Sarbat Khalsa" convention, the first such convention for 200 years, was expected to formally endorse a decision to demolish the Akal Thakt or the "Throne of the Timeless" and re-build it according to Sikh tradition. The Akal Takht was damaged during a June 1984 Indian army assault on the Golden Temple — the Sikhs' holiest shrine — to dislodge militants, and was later repaired with government help without the agreement and guidance of the Sikh religious authorities. But Sikh sources said the convention attended by thousands of Sikhs might also have an effect on the future course of Sikh history, and both authorities and Sikhs were bracing for possible violence.

Eyewitnesses said Indian paramilitary troops were deployed in strength in this Sikh holy city in the predominantly-Sikh northern Punjab state, and domestic news agencies reported that the army was standing by on alert throughout northern India. "We are ready for anything ... we cannot just afford to allow disruption of peace here," said an administration official.

The city appeared normal, but Sikh pilgrims who normally descend in large numbers on the shrine on Sundays stayed away today. Said one Sikh source: "Everyone is afraid that violence may break out here." The opening of the convention came a day after the deferral of the planned handover today — India's Republic Day — of Chandigrah, the joint capital of Punjab and Haryana states, to the exclusive control of Punjab as part of a July accord between moderate Sikhs and the federal government. The accord was aimed at ending a four-year violent campaign for greater Sikh autonomy in Punjab.

All trains crossing Punjab and Haryana were canceled after a commission failed yesterday to give its final report on the territorial dispute between the two states, PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] news agency reported.

The convention, which opened with the chanting of hymns by five holy men, was likely to give guidance to Sikhs on their future course of action, which may have far reaching consequences for Sikh politics, Sikh sources said.

Informed Sikh sources said the militants, numbering about 5,000, had outnumbered moderates in the Golden Temple and were in virtual control of the entire shrine. The militants, carrying swords, spears and knives, were roaming inside the temple complex giving cover to militant theoreticians who were prepar-

ing resolutions to be presented at the convention. The dictate of the convention was supposed to be binding on all Sikhs, for whom religion and politics are the same, Sikh sources said. The convention was also scheduled to endorse a resolution to confer "gold medals" on the late militant Sikh leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his two close associates, Bhai Amriksingh and former Indian army General Shubahag Singh, all of whom were killed in the army's assault on the temple.

Sikh sources also said the militant camp appeared to be heading for a vertical split as the hardliners were pressing for harsh action against the Punjab's moderate Sikh government led by Surjit Singh Barnala. The hardliners wanted the convention to give a call for a "holy war" against the government, but were being opposed by a section of elderly Sikhs. Old Sikh residents here however disputed claims of the militants that the convention was "Sarbat Khalsa" (all pure). "It is not, as the average Sikhs have not come — it is only the show of the "ugrapanmthies" (militants) ... hence any dictate given by the convention is not bindings on all Sikhs," said one resident here. Meanwhile, Sikhs here reacted angrily to the postponement of Chandrigarh's handover to Punjab.

The deferral followed the failure of a commission to identify the Hindi-speaking areas of Punjab that were due for simultaneous transfer to Haryana State as part of the July accord signed by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the late moderate Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal. "The Sikh accord is finished; we have been cheated," said an elderly Sikh here.

'Khalistan' Flag Raised

HK271128 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Amritsar, India, Jan 27 (AFP) — Tension mounted here today as militant Sikh separatists hoisted the flag of Khalistan over the Golden Temple, their religion's holiest shrine, and began demolishing the temple's inner sanctum. Informed sources said the security forces, who were out in force in this Punjab city yesterday, were absent from the streets today, and that fear of trouble was growing among city residents.

Eyewitnesses said the militants, identified by informed sources as ultra-radical Sikh students, had taken complete control of the temple. The eyewitnesses said that between 100 to 150 volunteers had begun demolishing the Akal Takht, the temple's inner sanctum. Earlier, about a dozen saffron flags of Khalistan, the name of the Sikh state the militants seek to establish, were hoisted above the temple.

A spokesman for the militants, Mokham Singh, refused to comment on events here today. He told reporters he would not stop any armed Sikhs who wanted to enter the temple: "We welcome it as it is our religious right to carry arms." There have been no reports of violence so far today. But one Sikh source said that if Sikh moderates attempted to dislodge the militants from the shrine "the Golden Temple will be knee-deep in blood."

'Parliament of Khalistan' Formed

HK271326 Hong Kong AFP in English 1319 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, Jan 27 (AFP) — Militant Sikhs in Punjab state today formed a 150-member "parliament of Khalistan" to take all decisions on religious and other Sikh affairs, a spokesman for the militants announced here. The action was taken shortly they hoisted their separatist flags atop the Golden Temple, the sect's top temple, and removed the five high priests, who had been Sikh moderates.

Spokesman Mokhan Singh said a new five-member committee would form the "cabinet." The committee comprises Wassan Singh, Roor Singh, Dhanna Singh, Gurbachan Singh and Gur dev Singh. It was unclear whether by forming the new body, the militants intended to declare an independant state. Punjab is ruled officially by Sikh moderates from the Akali Dal Party.

Thousands Demonstrate Following Airlines Blast

NC251321 Paris AFP in English 1300 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Islamabad, Jan 25 (AFP) — Several thousand people demonstrated and merchants staged a strike today in the western city of Peshawar to demand improved security following a bomb attack Thursday on Pakistan International Airlines that killed five and injured 24, correspondents on the scene reported. Peshawar, which borders on Afghanistan, harbors many Afghan refugees as well as the headquarters of Moslem groups fighting Soviet-backed Afghan Government forces.

Leaders of local student organizations and members of the non-parliamentary opposition, during an impromptu gathering following the demonstration, accused the government of failing to ensure security. Correspondents said speakers had also called for the departure of Afghan refugees and for increased efforts to persuade Kabul to allow them to return to Afghanistan. The call for the departure of the refugees, according to interviews with Peshawar residents, would appear to have popular backing in the city.

Investigation of Anti-American Protests Planned

GF261749 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 20 Jan 86 p 1

[Excerpt] Karachi, Jan. 19: Authorities in Islamabad have ordered the security agencies to identify the forces and real motives behind the current wave of anti-U.S. demonstrations all over the country, *THE MUSLIM* learnt here. Moreover security around American installations in the country has been tightened.

Sources, who do not want to be identified, disclosed that the government was particularly disturbed as these demonstrations had come at a time when it was requesting the United States of America for another five-year extension in the aid package which expires next year. The Government has requested for U.S. dollars 6.5 billion for the next five years. Anti-American demonstrations began in the country after the U.S. president asked for international sanctions against Libya for what he called its involvement in international terrorism.

Official sources expected that the current wave of anti-U.S. demonstrations will subside by the end of this month, but if there is a further flare-up, some measures will be considered to cope with it, they say.

President, Prime Minister Send Greetings to India

BK260330 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo have sent greeting messages to Indian President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of Republic Day of India today. In his message the president expresses satisfaction over the steps taken by the two countries to realize the common objective of establishing good-neighborly relations based on mutual cooperation and an absence of tension. He said the people of Pakistan will make every effort to form a strong foundation for bilateral relations based on mutual benefit to promote peace and security in the region.

In his message to the Indian prime minister, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo reitrates that the people of Pakistan are determined to establish tension-free relations based on mutual cooperation. He expresses the hope that the proposed visit by the Indian prime minister to Pakistan will help strengthen and stabilize bilateral relations, which will benefit the people of both countries.

Prime Minister Attends Indian Republic Day Reception

BK261603 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo attended a reception hosted by the Indian ambassador, S.K. Singh, on the occasion of the Indian Republic Day in Islamabad today. The prime minister asked the Indian ambassador to extend greetings on his own behalf and on behalf of the Pakistani people to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and to the Indian people. The prime minister informally mixed with the people attending the reception.

The National Assembly speaker, Syed Fakr Imam, and some federal ministers also attended the reception.

Justice Minister Comments on 'Subversive Elements'

BK261546 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] The government has taken serious note of increasing subversive activities in the country and is considering effective steps against subversive elements.

This was stated by the federal minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Iqbal Ahmad Khan, while speaking on an adjournment motion [in the National Assembly]. The motion, which was moved by Liaqat Baluch, had sought a discussion on the issue of the entry of Afghan KHAD agents into Pakistan and their subversive activities resulting in the deaths of innocent people and damage to property. He said the government would welcome proposals which might be helpful in eradicating such crimes and is ready to consider this issue in the house at any time. The mover did not press his motion after this clarification.

In another adjournment motion, the same mover asked for a discussion on the issue of the recent arrest of four subversive elements at the Quetta airport, but he did not press his motion following a statement by the minister for justice and parliamentary affairs that the information was incorrect.

Three identical adjournment motions moved by Begum Nasim A. Majid, Malik Mohammad Aslam Kachela, and Malik Abdur Rauf had sought a discussion on the issue of the alleged entry of foreign agents into tribal areas, but the movers did not press their motions following a denial by the minister for provincial and border areas affairs, Syed Qasim Shah.

Romanian Deputy Premier Arrives 25 January

BK250804 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Nicolae has said his country is ready to give assistance to Pakistan for more vital industrial ventures. He was talking to APP [Associated Press of Pakistan] on arriving Karachi this morning with his 4-member delegation. The delegation will participate in the formal inauguration tomorrow of the enlargement of the national refinery. Pakistani engineers have completed this project costing more than 2 billion rupees with Romanian assistance. It is expected that this project will yield a profit of 268 million rupees annually and save a foreign exchange of 298 million rupees. Mr Nicolae said this project is a good example of Pakistan-Romania cooperation. He paid tribute to Pakistani engineers and Romanian experts for their selfless service and hard work.

Federal Minister for Production Khaqan Abbasi and Sind Finance Minister Javed Sultan Japanwala received the Romanian deputy prime minister.

Further Details

BK270618 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] Romanian Deputy Prime Minister Ion M. Nicolae arrived Islamabad from Karachi this morning. Talking to Radio Pakistan's correspondent at the airport, he said he will hold talks with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo and the federal ministers for trade, finance, and production on the prospects of increasing the existing cooperation between Pakistan and Romania. We will identify industrial projects in which both countries can cooperate. He added that his country will be happy to help in Pakistan's economic progress.

Referring to the [word indistinct] plan of the national refinery, which has been built with Romanian assistance, the Romanian deputy prime minister commended the technical expertise of Pakistani engineers and workers who took part with the Romanian experts in the construction of the plant.

UK Delegation Meets Chamber of Commerce Members

BK260339 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] A British trade delegation met members of the Pakistani Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Karachi yesterday. Views were exchanged on expanding trade, transferring technology, and undertaking joint ventures.

The delegation also attended a dinner given in its honor by the Overseas British-Pak Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The president of the group, Moazam Ali, said that there are possibilities for joint ventures in several areas in the private sectors of the two countries, including engineering, electronics and textiles. He also referred to the bright prospects for British investments and transfer of technology to Pakistan.

Kabul Propaganda Khyber Agency Termed 'Baseless'

BK251032 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] A prominent elder of Khyber Agency, Malik Nadir Khan Zakakhel Afridi, has said the situation in Khyber Agency is peaceful and any propaganda to the contrary is baseless and without any foundation.

He said in an interview with Radio Pakistan's Peshawar representative that the hostile propaganda by the foreign-controlled Kabul Radio was aimed at diverting attention from the critical condition prevailing in Afghanistan. He said the tribesmen are true Muslims and they are not prepared to accept any ideology except Islam. They were planning to hold a joint representative jirga [assembly] of all the tribes in the seven agencies to show to the world that they stood for Islam and Pakistan. He condemned the foreign armed intervention in Afghanistan.

Mujahidin Kill 6 Soviet-Karmal Soldiers in Qandahar

BK260624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin have carried out rocket and mortar attacks on a military training center in Qandahar. In this operation, 6 Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed and 19 were captured. A major portion of the training center was damaged in the attack.

In another Mujahidin attack in (Temurat), many Soviet-Karmal soldiers were killed.

Further Mujahidin Operations

BK270225 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 Jan 86

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, mujahidin killed many Soviet-Karmal troops in Keshim area of Badakshan Province early this month. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Mujahidin attacked a patrol party in (Rebaz) District west of Faizabad and inflicted heavy losses on it.

Another report says that Karmal aircraft attacked rural areas east of Jalalabad on the 19th of this month, killing 20 civilians, most of whom were women and children.

BANGLADESH

President Sends Greetings to Rajiv Gandhi, Zail Singh

BK251622 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the occasion of the Republic Day of India. In a message he expressed the hope that deep and abiding friendship, mutual understanding, and meaningful cooperation between Bangladesh and India will further grow in the future. He conveyed his best wishes for the good health, happiness, and long life of Mr Gandhi and for the continued well-being and prosperity of the friendly people of India. The president has sent a similar message to President Giani Zail Singh.

SRI LANKA

Soldiers Open Fire at Train Station; 11 Dead

BK260856 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 11 persons, including 3 women, are reported killed in the northern town of Kilinochchi last evening when some soldiers opened fire on passengers waiting at the Kilinochchi station platform. The passengers were waiting to board a Colombo-bound train. Eyewitnesses, who came to Colombo by the train, told the All India Radio correspondent there were bullet marks and bloodstains on the walls of the station building.

They said prior to the incident, bombs were reportedly thrown by militants on a security force camp adjoining the station. At least 16 injured persons have been admitted to hospitals in Kilinochchi and Jaffna.

'Terrorist' Activities Detailed

BK261122 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text] Tamil terrorists attacked the security forces camp at Navatkuli in Jaffna on Friday [24 January]. The attack, which began at around 1815 [1245 GMT] on Friday evening, lasted nearly 12 hours, until the early hours of yesterday morning. The terrorists used mortars, rocket-propelled guns, machine guns,and small arms and fired at the camp from all directions. The security forces returned fire with mortars, arms, and helicopter gunship and successfully repulsed the attack.

The terrorist groups responsible for the attack are the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization — TELO; Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE; and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front — EPRLF. The troops suffered no casualties. Terrorist casualties are not yet known.

Tamil terrorists attacked the army camp at Kilinochchi yesterday afternoon. They used mortars and small arms in the attack. The security forces had to deploy armored cars in the attack. On seeing the armored cars, the terrorists withdrew to a place called (Uritchitraparam). Security forces could not pursue them as the roads were mined. There were some civilian casualties as a result of the cross fire. The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told SLBC [Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation] that the security forces had successfully repulsed the attack by the terrorists.

The security forces have made fresh appeals to the citizens committees at Mullaitivu to prevent innocent civilians from being used as a cover for terrorist activities. According to LANKA PUWATH, this appeal follows terrorist attacks on the Mullaitivu camps early yesterday morning. The terrorists had fired four mortars at the camp, but the security forces did not retaliate fearing that innocent civilians may be harmed. The security forces have therefore told the citizens committees to request the public not to be in the vicinity of the terrorists or to harbor terrorists in their homes.

A gunship sent to give air power to aircraft using the Palali airport opened fire on Friday on armed terrorists who were on either side of the runway. The gunship was sent to Palali on information that terrorists belonging to the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization — TELO — were trying to shoot at the aircraft landing at the airport.

The terrorists set off a landmine near the 20th mile post at Bhandaramulla in Eravur in the eastern province on Friday. LANKA PUWATH reports said that security forces patrol was proceeding on a routine road-clearing operation when the terrorists exploded the landmine. The troops were a few yards away from the landmine when the explosion took place. Special task force reinforcements were sent from Eravur and they too were attacked by the terrorists with grenades. The troops were successful in repulsing the attack.

Tamil terrorits threw hand grenades at the Vellaveli police station in Batticaloa, damaging the police station. They had also fired at the sentries at the police station, but the sentries were not hurt. The police returned fire, repulsing the attack. The police suspect that this attack was carried out as a tactic to divert the attention of the police from terrorist boat movements around the area.

Oil Ministry Official on 'Plot' of Falling Prices

LD241224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] In view of the intense fluctuations in oil prices during the past few days and their effect on the economy of the oil-producing countries, and the Iranian delegation's participation in the 27 January OPEC session, Mr Kazempur-Ardabili, the international affairs and trade undersecretary of the Oil Ministry and international affairs director at the National Iranian Oil Company, in an IRNA interview explained Iran's stances regarding the imperialist powers' plot aimed at reducing the price of oil.

He said: During the past 2 weeks the international oil market has been beset by intense fluctuations in oil prices, which reached a 2-year peak at the beginning of Azar 1364, that is, toward the end of last November. Within less than 2 weeks before OPEC's 76th session, prices dropped severely: North Sea oil went from $30.80 per barrel in Azar [November] to $23.00 after the session and to $19.95 at present for delivery in February. This has taken place at a time when demand, because of winter, had relatively improved. Only in the past few days have we witnessed a renewed reduction in demand because of lack of confidence with regard to the market.

He added: The imposition of these conditions on the oil market by the imperialist countries, which indeed constitute the original members of the International Energy Agency, was aimed at creating an economic boom in the Western countries and in those countries subservient to them, at the cost of harming OPEC members, particularly those with large populations.

The Oil Ministry's international affairs and trade undersecretary added: While condemning the policies of the imperialist countries aimed at reducing the price of oil and criticizing the stances adopted by certain OPEC members, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again emphasizes the necessity for the unity of all OPEC members aimed at countering such policies and safeguarding the interests of the nations. Iran calls on all members, by displaying self-control and resistance in supplying oil, to bring about conditions for stabilizing the price of oil.

He also said: Declaring its adherence to the quotas and prices specified by OPEC, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all members to take rapid action to curb supplies exceeding their quotas, at present carried out by certain members, and to refrain from adopting methods of selling which deprive OPEC of the lever of determining prices.

He added: The nation and revolutionary government of Iran in declaring this stand warns all OPEC members that their respective nations will not tolerate adopting such wrong policies.

The Oil Ministry's international affairs and trade undersecretary, condemning the reactionary policies within OPEC, said: With the cooperation of such progressive OPEC members as Libya and Algeria which are determined to confront the adoption of reactionary policies, while condemning Iraq's over-production and criticizing Saudi Arabia and Nigeria for deviating from their specified quotas and adopting selling methods in violation of OPEC rules, Iran calls on them and on all OPEC members to reduce the level of OPEC production in order to maintain official prices.

He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran deems the increase in production and adoption of the gross policies by the North Sea producers — Britain and Norway — as an instrument for imposing the will of the imperialist quarters. Iran calls on all OPEC members to study the issue of boycotting commercial purchases or imposing import restrictions on good manufactured by these two countries and to apply the same should the policies aimed at reducing the price of oil continue.

Explaining this, he said: The setting up of barriers to the import of labor intensive goods, which could cause an increase in unemployment in these two countries, should top the list of the measures to be adopted by OPEC members against these two countries.

Criticizing the governments of Oman and Dubai for allowing the multinational companies to reduce their oil prices by more than $4.00 per barrel during the past month, he also called on them to prevent such a trend, and in order to safeguard the interests of their nations to take rapid action to implement policies of price increases.

Concluding the interview, the Oil Ministry's international affairs and trade undersecretary called on other countries which are not members of OPEC — such as Mexico, Malaysia, the PRC, the USSR and Angola — by fully coordinating their actions with OPEC aimed at safeguarding their own interests to cooperate further with that organization.

Oil Minister Announces Reduction in Oil Quota

LD251332 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Mr Aqazadeh, the minister of petroleum today took part in a radio and TV interview and announced that for the past 10 days the Islamic Republic of Iran has reduced its quota of oil ready for delivery to international market because the reduced prices for oil in international markets have not been accepted. It is hoped that other OPEC countries would follow suit and reduce their oil delivered to markets. The petroleum minister added: Because of the reduction in oil prices, Iran has only honored its long term contracts and has refrained from selling its oil on the spot market which has been influenced by the present reduced prices.

Regarding Britain's role in the serious reduction of oil prices in the market, the oil minister said: Following the increase in the U.S. budget deficit and the deterioration of the economic situation in industrial countries during the past few months, America and the industrial countries of Europe agreed to devalue the dollar in order to improve the state of the American economy. These countries secretly agreed to reduce oil prices; the prime instigator in this connection was Britain. Britain has followed a corrupt policy during the past few rounds and, relying on the 5 billion barrels of oil stored in industrial countries, it acted speedily to reduce the price of the North Sea oil and brought about the serious reduction in oil prices on international markets.

He added: With lower oil prices, Britain will lose millions of dollars from oil tax revenue; but because of the agreement reached with America and its other allies, they will meet Britain's expenses and losses resulting from the price reduction.

The petroleum minister referred to Saudi Arabia's announcement of another increase in oil exports, which stand at 5 to 6 million barrels per day, and pointed to some OPEC members' inclination to supply crude oil to the market which is done under the pretext of gaining OPEC's rightful share of international oil market. He said: Some OPEC members, knowingly or otherwise, have taken part in the conspiracies hatched by America and Britain aimed at lowering oil prices, thus reducing the income of OPEC countries and plotting to defeat OPEC as the organization which determines oil prices. Therefore, these countries are helping to create a price war, the intensification of which would result in serious reduction of the income of all oil-producing countries. He added: With the repeated reductions in oil prices, OPEC countries have had to accept reduced incomes and deal with financial problems in continuing their economic programs. Most of these countries will not be able to meet the reduction in their income by increasing their oil production in circumstances where increased oil supply keeps prices under pressure. OPEC should realize the threat of such a situation.

The oil minister added: We are against any method which might prevent OPEC from determining oil prices and therefore will back any policy which, according to OPEC's charter, will leave the setting of oil prices to OPEC. The oil minister added: Defending the oil prices depends on OPEC's resistance. If OPEC countries organize a coordinated and united resistance, they will be able to foil the plot to lower oil prices. In order to fight the oil price situation, Mr Aqazadeh suggested a short term reduction in the amount of oil delivered to the oil market by OPEC countries. Since OPEC countries are major importers of American and European goods, they should study the possibility of using their imports as a weapon.

The correspondent of the Central News Unit reports that the Islamic Republic of Iran has asked oil exporting countries to consider the policies followed by North Sea oil-producing countries, aimed at lowering oil prices, as the means used by imperialist sources to impose their will. Oil-exporting countries should, in retaliation, study economic sanctions or impose import limits for goods made in such countries. If the policy of reducing oil prices is followed further, then such methods should be implemented.

Commenting on the future of OPEC, Mr Aqazadeh said: The rapid trend of the past 2 weeks in severely reducing oil prices down to less than $20 on the market, can not continue in the long term and will bring about new circumstances. The petroleum minister added: OPEC will suffer hardships in the short term during which time solidarity within the organization will be put to the test. The oil minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: Those who talk about regaining OPEC's share of oil supply in the market should realize that world oppression intends to return this share to OPEC at the expense of serious price reductions.

Therefore, any attempt to increase oil production quotas and to supply more of OPEC's oil to the market should be considered as a conspiracy. The consumer market for oil will not demand more oil production. But, if OPEC weathers the next 2 years and does not flood the market with oil -- which would only serve to fill the oil stores of America and European countries, stores which are used as a weapon against OPEC -- the future of OPEC countries will be promising.

The petroleum minister referred to the depleting oil production of non-OPEC countries and said: OPEC should postpone drawing up its plans for 1 or 2 years. International estimates indicate that as of 1990 oil production of non-OPEC countries will be reduced and, therefore, OPEC's share of the oil market will increase.

Musavi Announces Oil Production Cut in Half

LD261244 Tehran IRNA in English 1220 GMT 26 Jan 86

[Text]Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said here Sunday that in an effort to thwart plots aimed at weakening oil exporting countries, Iran has decided to cut its oil production by half until further notice. Speaking after the cabinet session, also attended by President 'Ali Khamene'i, the prime minister added that Iran will only meet its long-term agreements and called on other oil producers to join Iran in this measure.

The prime minister commenting on recent efforts to push oil prices down, said that it was a well calculated and continuous plot of Western countries aimed at weakening oil exporting countries. However, he added, at present the oil producers were in a position to foil this plot. The Islamic Republic of Iran has pioneered in thwarting the plot, however, Iran alone could not shoulder the responsibility that rests on all oil producing countries, he added.

During the session latest economic and political developments of the country and also the outcome of the recent trip of President Khamene'i to Pakistan were discussed. Addressing the cabinet, the president referred to the long-standing cultural ties between Iran and Pakistan and said that in its foreign policy strategy, the Islamic Republic of Iran should attach special importance to Asia. "Strong friendly relations between Iran and Pakistan will be of great importance for independence and progress of the nations of the region," he added.

Khamene'i Friday Sermon on Afro-Asia Tour, Oil Prices

LD241330 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text]Simultaneous with the days marking the martyrdom of the beloved daughter of Islam's prophet, Fatimah the radiant, the politico-religious Friday prayers ceremonies were held throughout the country today. Tehran's Muslim people, too, with their presence at Tehran University and surrounding thoroughfares, observed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i today.

During the Friday prayers ceremonies in Tehran today, held with the participation of a large group of volunteer popular forces to be sent to the front from Khorasan Province, Tehran's Friday imam on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of Fatimah

the radiant recalled certain aspects of the lofty attributes of the great lady of Islam as a peerless model to Muslim women and spoke in detail about that holy person's onerous life.

Referring to his recent visit to Pakistan and the Frontline States fighting the racist South African regime, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i then said: Despite the perennial plot by the news networks of world arrogance, this visit has produced extensive repercussions throughout the world in political quarters, and its outcomes have gladdened the friends of the Iranian nation and angered its enemies.

Referring to the warm and unprecedented welcome given by the Pakistani nation to the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president said: The Pakistani president, so astonished by the unprecedented welcome accorded by the Pakistani people to the representatives of the Islamic Republic said: This crowd is so vast that we are neither capable of bringing them here by force nor capable of ejecting them by force.

Referring to his visit to Tanzania, Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe, constituting the Frontline States fighting the racist regime of South Africa, Khamene'i described the prime motive for visiting these countries as being Iran's support for the righteous struggles of the oppressed nations of Africa against the Pretoria regime, and added: Iran, which has raised man's cry for freedom, cannot remain indifferent to the crimes perpetrated by the South African regime against the wronged African nations. I, as representative of the Iranian nation, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council and the envoy of the Islamic revolution of Iran, left a country at war in order to tell the wronged people of Africa that our nation is on the side of the fighting people of Africa, and that we will support the people of that continent with all our means.

Referring to the harsh blows suffered by the deprived nations of Africa over hundreds of years from the European colonialists, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i mentioned the unprecedented welcome accorded by the Pakistani people and the Frontline States to the responsible officials from Iran: For the peoples of these countries the issue was not who was visiting their country. They did not hasten to welcome a person or persons. They came to welcome Islam and Iran; this ardor and love shown by the people of Pakistan and of the Frontline States in their welcome speaks of the fact that the ground for unity between world Muslims has become extremely favorable. As a result of this visit we resolved to work hard to bring about unshakable Islamic unity for 1 billion Muslims worldwide.

Tehran's Friday imam added: On our tour of African countries an African Muslim told us: Your coming to Africa was like the coming of Ja'far ibn Abu Talib at the inception of Islam: just as he introduced Islam into Africa you, too, have also introduced the fresh breath of Islam into Africa. Africa's fighting organizations, too, told us: We are drawing our strength and inspiration from your and your nation.

Continuating his sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i referred to the reduction in the price of North Sea oil as a major plot by world arrogance against OPEC members and added: Britain, whose entire history is one of colonialism and torture of nations, reduced the price of its oil by some $10 per barrel within a few days, while on the other hand increasing the exports of its oil. This is nothing else but a plot. Britain is a tool for a U.S. victory and a success over OPEC members. Our message to OPEC members is one of resistance regarding this plot, and the Islamic Republic of iran will confront this conspiracy.

Further Details

LD241755 Tehran IRNA in English 1636 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Excerpt] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — The leader of the Friday congregational prayers in Tehran, President Khamene'i, said here Friday that his recent visit to Islamabad, Lahore, Dar es Salaam, Maputo, and Luanda, had served very much to inform the African and Asian peoples of Iran's position towards the "exploitative" policies of the big powers in Asia and Africa.

President Khamene'i who was sermonizing at the Friday mass prayers and addressing a massive group of worshippers in and around the compounds of Tehran University at noontime here Friday said a fervor for Islam rages high among the people of Pakistan and in the African countries he visited and noted despite its inherent fear of an eventual unity between Muslim nations, the world "colonialism" has failed to exterminate Islam as a common cause for unity between world's Muslim nations.

Khamene'i said in his meetings with the leaders of the said countries he had asserted Iran's outlooks of the intrinsic friction of the idea of independence and sovereignty for some African countries with Washington's policies in Africa. He said he had told the Angolan leader that all past experience of the world Muslims demonstrates that the more Muslims yield to aggressors the more the latter will indulge in their aggressive acts. He cited the case of the Jerusalem occupying regime and its encroachment upon Lebanon as a vivid example of what submission to an enemy may bring in its wake.

President Khamene'i said in his talks with leaders of African governments he had assured them that the United States would not "of its own accord" step out of Africa and leave the African peoples to themselves, and that therefore their fight for freedom and independence should be a fighting with the United States. He said he had also told the African leaders that it would be a gross mistake to try to expect help from Washington in their efforts for protecting themselves from the aggression of the Pretoria government.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,360

LD241731 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 24, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombed 'Darluk' garrison of Iraq and a concentration center of Iraqi troops in southeast of the Iraqi city of Al-'Amadiyah 100 kms from Iranian city of Oshnoviyeh, at 12:15 hours (08:45 hours GMT) Friday, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported here Friday. In its communique number 2360, the command says that Iranian jet fighters after successfully bom-

barding their targets, at 37.03 north and 43.39 east coordinates, and inflicting heavy losses on Iraqi forces returned to their bases safely. In the western fronts, the command says, Iran's Muslim combatants disrupted engineering operations of Iraqi forces near Kani-Sheykh and Sumar and checked Iraqi armoured units in areas overlooking Sumar Thursday.

Iran's Muslim forces exchanged heavy artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops in Shahrani and Majnun Island, southern fronts, and minimized Iraqi aerial operations in the said fronts Thursday according to the communique. Despite the bad weather of the northwestern fronts Thursday, Iranian forces dispatched to patrol units and pounded Iraqi positions with their artillery and mortar fire inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, reports the joint staff.

Iraqi Troops Shelled Across River

LD241829 Tehran IRNA in English 1748 GMT 24 Jan 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Jan. 24, IRNA — At least 15 Iraqi soldiers were killed and three bulldozers and loaders together with one artillery emplacement of theirs were demolished across the Arvand River Thursday as their positions were subjected to Iranian artillery fire, a report reaching here said Friday. The report said that the Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in west of the Arvand River Thursday also destroyed one munitions dump and five bunkers of Iraqi forces.

According to another report from Bakhtaran, Bakhtaran Province, Iran's Muslim combatants opened heavy artillery and mortar fire on Iraqi positions in Ilam and Bakhtaran border fronts, killing or wounding at least 23 Iraqi soldiers and destroying 11 bunkers and one observation post of theirs.

Communique No 2,361

LD251717 Tehran IRNA in English 1648 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 25, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants exchanged heavy artillery fire with Iraqi troops in the western fronts Friday, killing or wounding at least 40 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing 20 artillery emplacements and four vehicles of theirs, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Saturday. In its communique number 2361, the command says that Iranian artillery fire on the Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Friday killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroyed five Iraqi light and heavy vehicles. Parts of Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts were also set ablaze.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, exchange of fire continued more heavily in Hoseyniyeh and Majnun Islands Friday during which Iranian artillery hit a group of Iraqi tanks in areas overlooking Chazzabeh inflicting heavy casualties and losses. Iran's gendarmerie forces subjected Iraqi positions across the Arvand River to their artillery fire Friday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them, reports the joint staff. One Iraqi motorized unit was checked by Iranian Muslim combatants in Mehran operational region Friday, according to the communique. Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province was target of Iraqi long-range artillery fire Friday as a result of which some buildings were damaged.

Communique No 2,362

LD261554 Tehran IRNA in English 1537 GMT 25 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 26, IRNA — Iran's jet fighters bombed Iraq's 'Golak' garrison at 36:36 north and 44:10 east coordinates west of Rawanduz, at 11:09 (07:39 hours GMT) Sunday. The Iranian jet fighters all returned to their bases safely, reported the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Sunday.

In its communique number 2362, the command says that Iranian artillery pounded Iraqi positions in the Western fronts Saturday killing or wounding at least 10 Iraqi soldiers and destroying several Iraqi gun emplacements. Iran's Muslim combatants stationed in the western fronts also forced a group of Iraqi patrols to flee in Kani-Sheykh and checked engineering operation of Iraqi forces in Helaleh saturday, according to the communique.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian Muslim forces exchanged artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops Saturday, silencing their artillery and inflicting substantial casualties and losses on them. Some Iraqi tanks both in Hoseyniyeh and Al-'Amarah were checked by Iranian artillery fire Saturday as a result of which Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses, reports the command. Iran's gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the fronts Saturday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and halting their combat and engineering operations. Meanwhile Abadan and Khorramshahr, both in Khuzestan Province, were hit by Iraqi sporadic artillery fire saturday as a result of which some buildings in Abadan were damaged.